

Hard Talk Checklist

Is Your School on the Road to Readicide?

Yes	No	Not Sure	
6	2	5	Our school "values" reading. Do we all agree what this means?
12	0	1	is our quest for higher test scores harming our students' long-term reading prospects?
8	0	5	Is it true that as our students progress from grade to grade their dislike of reading intensifies?
1	10	2	Is our treatment of struggling readers helping to lift them out of the remedial reading track?
11	0	2	Are the same students mired in remedial classes year after year?
3	0	9	Are remedial readers even farther behind when they leave high school than they were when they entered high school?
10	0	3	Is the percentage of our students who love reading dwindling?
7	4	1	Are our students reading enough academic material?
0	12	1	Are our students reading enough recreational material?
11	0	2	Is width (coverage) drowning depth?
2	5	6	Are our students being trained to think deeply?
0	10	3	Are we giving our students the kinds of reading experiences that lead them to be "expert citizens"? (See page 13.)
7	1	5	Does our staff understand that intensive test focus on state tests has not translated to deeper reading on other assessments, such as the SAT or NAEP assessments?
10	1	4	Does our staff understand that since NCLB began, reading scores have remained flat, the achievement gap has remained wide, and fewer students today are reading?
5	4	4	Does our staff understand the evidence that indicates intense testing focus actually decreases our students' college readiness?
11	0	2	Does our staff understand that the end goal of this testing madness—every student will be proficient by 2014—is unattainable and is used as a hammer to push more students into a readicide curriculum?
10	0	3	Are we out of balance (teaching for authentic purposes vs. teaching for political purposes)?
0	12	1	Would you want your own children to be enrolled in a school that heavily emphasizes test preparation?
12	0	1	Is our school/district stuck in the vicious cycle of the Paige Paradox? (See page 14.)